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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
HAILSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hailsham Rural District Council.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1940. The Ministry of Health Circular 2314 recommends that this report should be curtailed and be considered as an interim report, as for the previous year.

In spite of the influx of evacuees into the District in August 1939, and their residence here until June 1940, the general health remained good throughout the year and the incidence of infectious disease was low.

After the removal of the evacuee children to South Wales, the hospitals at Spring Lodge, Heathfield; Pinehurst, Broad Oak; and Crossways, Wilmington; were closed, and the equipment stored at Park Croft at the disposal of the Ministry of Health for issue to hospitals in other Districts when required.

In February a scheme was inaugurated for the immunisation against Diphtheria of the evacuee children resident in the District. Written parental consent for 276 children was obtained through the Metropolitan Borough Councils and the Croydon Corporation, but immunisation could not be carried out before the majority of them were removed to South Wales.

The parental consents were forwarded to the Medical Officers of the Districts concerned, who carried out the immunisation of these children; the few who remained were immunised here.

As regards the local children, the scheme was revised in December 1940, on receipt of Circular 2230, to meet the increased risks in the present emergency, and the first clinic was held on 31st December. The aim of the new scheme was to immunise at least 75% of the child population against Diphtheria.

The staff of the Health Department has worked hard and willingly throughout the year, and I wish especially to place on record my appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Mr. Chapman, who in spite of many extra responsibilities has never failed to deal adequately with all health problems.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. Tillett.

Medical Officer of Health.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS.	1939.	1940.
Area in Acres	94,629	94,629
Registrar General's Estimate of resident population, mid-1940	34,165	35,950
Number of Inhabited houses, end of 1940.	10,425	10,350
Rateable Value	£259,072	£262,357
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£995	£1,044

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Live Births.	Total.	Males.	Females.
(a) Legitimate	425	209	216
(b) Illegitimate	21	8	13

Birth Rate per 1,000 Resident Population 12.4
England and Wales 14.6

Stillbirths.	Total.	Males.	Females.
(a) Legitimate	17	11	6
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-

Rate per total births (live and still) 3.6
England and Wales .55

Total Deaths.

440.

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population:

Crude, 12.2. Adjusted, 9.88.
England and Wales, 14.3

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)
Deaths from puerperal causes:		
Puerperal sepsis	-	-
Other puerperal causes	1	2.1
Total	1	2.1
Death Rate of all Infants per 1,000 live births.....	-	41.5
Death Rate of legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births.....	-	37.1
Death Rate of illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.....	-	95.23
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	63	-
Deaths from Measles (all ages).....	Nil	-
Deaths from Whoopingcough (all ages)	2	0.05
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil	-
Zymotic Death Rate		0.05

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The attached summary of the multifarious duties of the Health Department will show that every effort has been made to prevent or abate nuisances, effect improvements and protect the health of the community, and notwithstanding the many adverse influences incidental to the War, it is gratifying to be able to record that the work was carried out with comparatively little outstanding at the end of the year.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Mains.

No changes have occurred in the sources of supply to

the respective parts of the District and only main extensions of a minor character have been provided to individual houses.

Wells and Springs.

Intensive action was taken to ensure that wells and springs in villages remote from mains were provided with a sufficiency of reasonably protected water suitable for consumption and domestic use, and even for fire protection purposes, involving the cleaning out, treatment and resumption in use of nine wells and three springs (see details in attached Summary).

No serious shortage was met with, the average rainfall being normal, at 31.32 inches.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No change or extension has occurred in any of the systems in the district, and the methods of collection and disposal have proceeded without complaint.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Special attention has been given to the protection of all watercourses by the disconnection of farmyard drainage and the installation of lagoons or cesspools in several parishes, thereby preventing pollution and conserving for use a richly nitrified fertiliser so commonly wasted.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Few changes occurred in connection with the systems in vogue, and were confined to conversions. Where nuisances or defects arose, prompt steps were taken for their abatement, and these are included in the Summary.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This Service has continued, under difficulties, to serve ten parishes, with minor extensions of rounds within the respective parishes. Requests were received for more frequent collections in the Heathfield area, where a fortnightly service operates, but consideration of these was deferred till after the War.

FACTORIES.

The growth of workshops of the small factory type for some branch of Service has been considerable, and attention has been given in numerous cases to water supply, drainage or sanitary accommodation. It has only been possible to arrange for premises to be visited under a group inspection, except where nuisances have been investigated or reported.

HOUSING.

Three hundred and sixty seven inspections and re-inspections of houses have been made, and action taken to remedy defects, when these were of an urgent character, such as Dampness, Insecure or Defective Walls, Roofs, Ceilings, etc., reported to be affecting the habitable condition of premises. Although several such houses have undergone considerable reconstruction, the majority have been reconditioned for sums ranging from £5 to £50. No systematic housing inspection has been attempted or considered desirable under present circumstances.

Overcrowding was met with in 10 cases, and satisfactory arrangements were subsequently made for its abatement in every case.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

There are no central slaughterhouses situated in the Rural District. Inspection has been confined to food at.

butchers' or grocers' shops and to the examination of animals killed for farmers, pig clubs, and others who had obtained the necessary permits from the Food Controller, and consignments made to local butchers, including organs which were found to be unsound and unfit for use.

Early in the year this latter class was rather high and necessitated the condemnation of a considerable quantity, but such unsoundness had almost disappeared in June, and a high standard of quality for the most part has been maintained ever since.

MILK SUPPLY.

A large number of bacteriological, chemical and visible dirt samples were taken, and where by reason of indifference or other causes the quality of milk was deficient, energetic measures were taken to correct and improve the standard, methods, and the premises from which the product was distributed. Generally the standard attained in quality and cleanliness has been high. No formal action was taken against any producer during the year.

There would seem to have been no diminution in the quantity of milk produced in the District. On the contrary, 50 new names were added to the Register.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT.

The destruction of these pests was intensified during the year and much success attended the use of poisons and gassing. The delegated powers have been systematically applied, and this has resulted in securing the interest and co-operation of farmers, pig-keepers, owners and stock-breeders who realize what destructive and prolific pests the rats are.

SALVAGE.

This was a comparatively new duty to be controlled by the Health Department, and one which has been applied with outstanding energy. It commenced in February 1940, based originally upon the Cleansing Schemes, and subsequently extended to the whole District for Salvage Collections. It is satisfactory to note the success of these efforts in that up to 30th December, 1940, there has been returned to the market for War or Industrial purposes, Paper, Metals and Textiles to the value of £963. 4s. 7d. This excludes several parish and village efforts where arrangements had been made to collect, but where organisers preferred to contract with private firms and dealers rather than come within the framework of the Council's Scheme as advised by the Ministry.

A noteworthy feature of the result is that payments to schools and organisations for substances collected by them during the period, amounting to £141. 3s. 9d. have been applied to Wool, Comforts and other Funds for the Forces.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS AND FOOD ANALYSIS.

Public Health Nuisances (Inspections)	240
Housing Inspections and Reinspections (Overcrowding, 10)	367
Complaints	84
Public Cleansing (Salvage, etc.)	1,279
Drainage and cesspools	290
Closet Accommodation, Privies and Elsan, 51; W.C.s, 124	175
Milk and Dairies; Sediment Tests	568
Chemical Tests	340
Bacteriological Tests	340
Slaughterhouses and Meat: Food examined, 46.352 lbs.) condemned, 5.080 lbs.)	159
Water Supplies	448
Water Samples: Informal, 90 Formal, 13	103
Knackers' Yards	17
Bakehouses	13
Tents, Vans & Sheds	67
Factories and Workshops: (21 shops)	40
Infectious Diseases.	146
Rooms disinfected (including those following evacuation)	285
Verminous premises	23
Rats and Mice Destruction	84
Schools	9
Pollution of Watercourses	35
Markets	18

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 years	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 15 years	1	1	3	2	-	-	-	-
15 to 25 years	2	3	1	-	2	1	-	-
25 to 35 years	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 to 45 years	2	1	2	-	1	2	-	-
45 to 55 years	3	3	-	-	1	1	-	-
55 to 65 years	1	2	-	1	1	1	-	-
65 and upwards	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Age not known	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	15	17	7	3	6	5	-	-

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CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Age not known	Under 1 yr.	1 to 2 yrs.	2 to 3 yrs.	3 to 4 yrs.	4 to 5 yrs.	5 to 10 yrs.	10 to 15 yrs.	15 to 20 yrs.	20 to 35 yrs.	35 to 45 yrs.	45 to 65 yrs.	65 and over	TOTAL.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	4	1	9	2	2	3	-	1	-	21
Pneumonia	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	2	-	5	3	18
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	1	1	1	9
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	2	-	6
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Whoopingcough	30	4	5	8	6	2	31	7	1	-	1	-	-	95
Measles	6	3	2	4	12	6	18	1	1	5	-	-	-	58

CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL AND TOTAL DEATHS.

Disease	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	21	16	-
Pneumonia	18	-	-
Diphtheria	9	2	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	6	3	1
Puerperal Fever	2	-	-
Poliomyelitis	1	1	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-
Whoopingcough	95	-	-
Measles	58	4	-
German Measles	-	3	-
Suspected Smallpox	-	1	-
Suspected Diphtheria	-	1	-
Influenzal Meningitis	-	1	-

NUMBER OF CASES REMOVED TO THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL IN EACH MONTH.
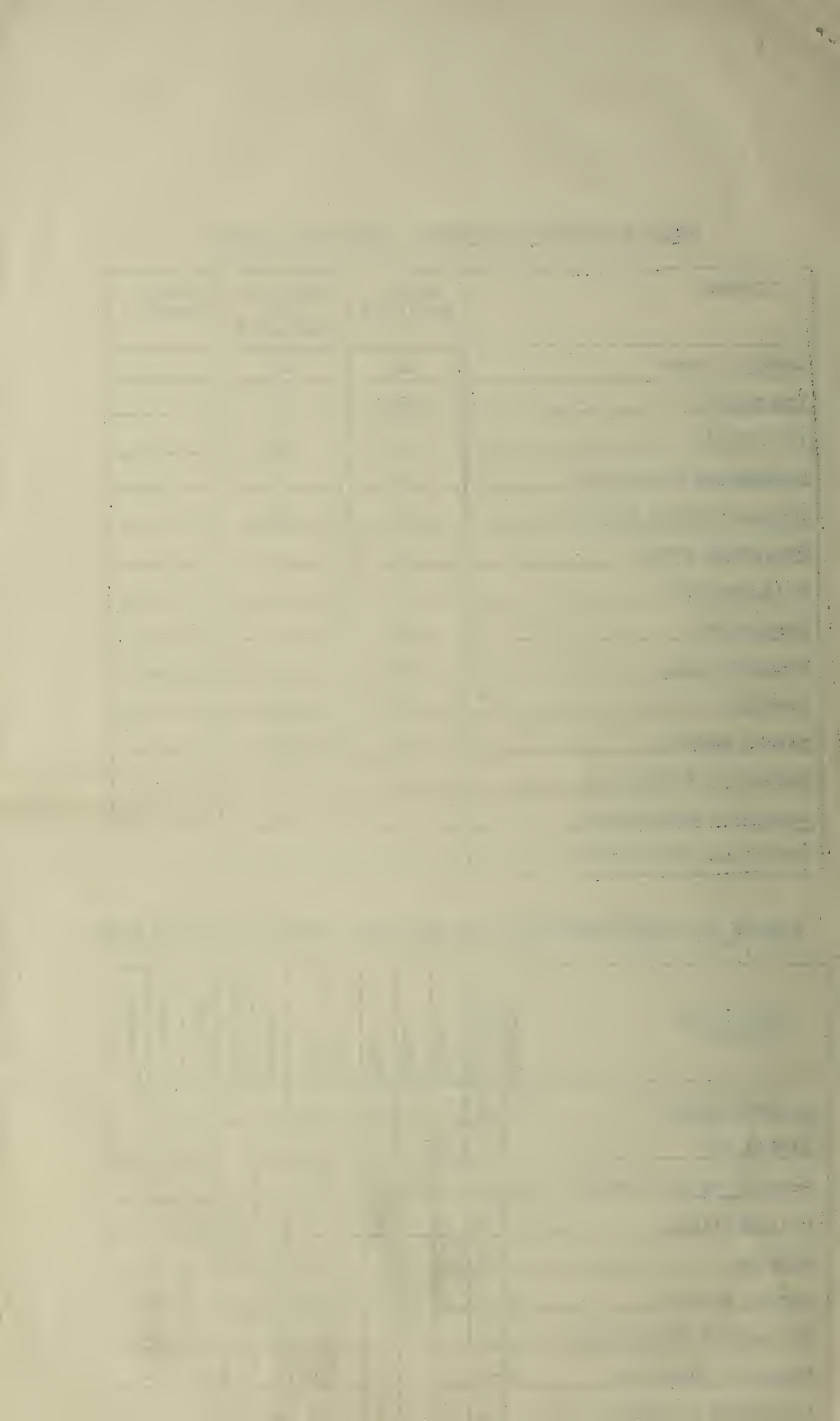
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Scarlet Fever	2	3	1	4	2	1	3	-	-	2	1	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Measles	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
German Measles	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Influenzal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Suspected Smallpox	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suspected Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

